NEWS

News hires Editor Nell Coakley

JOYCE WESTNER | STAFF WRITER

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By Joyce Westner Jan. 4, 2024

Thanks to generous donations from the community, Winchester N hired Nell Escobar Coakley as part-time editor. A Malden reside Coakley is already familiar with Winchester, having been a reporter for the

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Winchester Town Crier, a newspaper started by Bill Cummings back in the 1990s. She worked as a managing editor for Gannett, the parent company of the Winchester Star, and was deputy director of Massachusetts State News, but like many of their reporters and employees, Coakley was laid off in 2022.

In addition to working for Winchester News, Coakley is also helping a group in Medford start a newspaper. Winchester Board of Directors President Tara Hughes says, "Nell Coakley is used to becoming part of a community and reporting on what that community needs and wants to know. We are excited about this hire and hope Winchester will feel the same."

"Nell was highly recommended to me by people I trust in local news," says Winchester News Board Member Emily Costello who served as the Winchester Star's editor. "I later learned she covered Winchester for the now-defunct Town Crier. So she knows the job and the community and I have high hopes for her work."

Coakley can be reached by sending an email to editor@winchesternews.org, which also goes to Joyce Westner.

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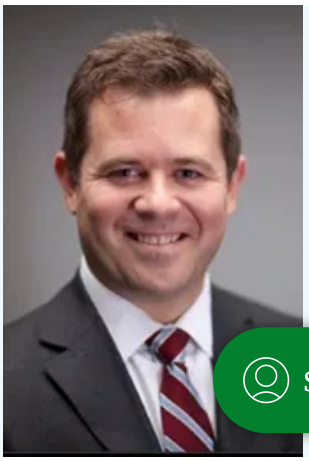

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Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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March 4, 2026

NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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Sen. Jason Lewis, Mass. Senate strengthen fair housing protections for renters, buyers

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

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Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

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FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School

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stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
March 4, 2026

Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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